

### **STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of performing costing of tasks including healthcare activities, said method comprising the steps of:

a) establishing a list of healthcare tasks involved in a work process for a medical operating room or a medical examination room and including determining whether or not wherein at least one of said healthcare tasks that involves execution by a human operator is a variable task by considering:

(1) the variance of the time to complete the task relative to a standard,

(2) how often the task occurs,

(3) how difficult it is to measure accurately,

(4) whether the task has identifiable sub-components, and

(5) the financial impact to a healthcare business of which the healthcare activities are a part,

b) calculating the duration of said at least one healthcare task by said human operator using an operator independent method of task time measurement based on independently timing each motion in a procession of motions required to perform said healthcare task without timing from a beginning of said healthcare task to an end of said healthcare task a human performing said healthcare task;

c) establishing a first cost component of each healthcare task as a function of the expected time of execution of said healthcare task and the cost per unit time for said human operator;

d) establishing a second cost component of each healthcare task dependent on non-labor costs of the process, a portion of each non-labor cost being

apportioned to said healthcare task as a function of the time of execution of said healthcare task by said human operator, machine operating time or other relative consumption of a resource;

e) maintaining the expected time to complete said activities and the cost per unit time of said operator in a memory of a computer; and

f) calculating a task cost independent of the efficiency of the human operator using a processor of said computer including the step of summing the first and second components for the healthcare task to establish the cost of the healthcare task.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the operator independent method of task time measurement is a predetermined motion time system.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the operator independent method of task time measurement is the Maynard Operation Sequence Technique.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said healthcare tasks involved in said work process are executed by two or more different human operators.

7. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the healthcare tasks together form the work process, said method further comprising the step of:

f) summing the costs of the healthcare tasks in said process to give a process cost, and utilizing the process cost to determine the cost of the work process.

8. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 7 wherein the costs in the work process comprise the costs associated with a business unit.

9. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 7 wherein the costs in the work process comprise business line costs of a business line.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 9 wherein the business line costs and the revenue brought in by the business line are used to calculate the profitability of the business line, which is in turn used to correctly price the business line.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7 wherein a financial model of revenue, costs and profit is created.

13. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 12 wherein at least one of ROI, ROC and IRR are determined for a capital investment.

14. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 7 wherein a business goal is set and changes in process cost and time are calculated.

15. (Previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said method is further utilized to establish the cost of all work processes in said business.

16. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein a utilization ratio of said operator is calculated based on the total task time calculated to be necessary to complete all tasks in all work processes executed by said operator and the total time worked by said operator.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said operation costs comprise at least one of department costs and total business operating costs.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7 wherein revenue generated by said process is calculated and profitability of said work process is calculated based on the difference between said cost of said process and said revenue.

22. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein a difference between the calculated time to complete a task independent of the operator and the actual time taken by the operator is used to establish a risk profile for the business, on the basis that a positive difference implies that work is not being carried out with the required care.

23. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein a difference between the calculated time to complete a task independent of the operator and the actual time taken by the operator is used to establish hidden liability of unperformed work, on the basis that a positive difference implies that tasks are being left incomplete.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A method of performing costing of tasks including healthcare activities, said method comprising:

a) establishing a list of healthcare tasks involved in a work process wherein said healthcare tasks involves execution by a human operator;

b) for each task, determining:

(1) how much the time to complete the task can vary from a standard with a single person and from person to person,

(2) the frequency the task is performed,

- (3) how easy it is to measure the time to perform the task,
- (4) how many sub-components the task has,
- (5) whether the task requires analysis or thinking,
- (6) the complexity of the task,
- (7) if standard charges for the task by law exist, and
- (8) the financial impact of the task,

c) for each task, deciding which one of four available methods of measurement should be used for calculating the duration of the task depending on the determining step, including:

- (1) expert opinions,
- (2) time studies,
- (3) industry standards, and

(4) an operator independent method of task time measurement based on independently timing each motion in a procession of motions required to perform said healthcare task without timing from a beginning of said healthcare task to an end of said healthcare task a human performing said healthcare task;

d) establishing a first cost component of each healthcare task as a function of the expected time of execution of said healthcare task and the cost per unit time for said human operator;

e) establishing a second cost component of each healthcare task dependent on non-labor costs of the process, a portion of each non-labor cost being apportioned to said healthcare task as a function of the time of execution of said healthcare

task by said human operator, machine operating time or other relative consumption of a resource;

f) maintaining the expected time to complete said activities and the cost per unit time of said operator in a memory of a computer; and

g) calculating a task cost using a processor of said computer including the step of summing the first and second components for the healthcare task to establish the cost of the healthcare task.

30. (New) A method of establishing costs due to labor activities of healthcare service providers, the method comprising:

establishing a list of diverse tasks for that are undertaken by healthcare service providers for which activity based on cost information is desired, including preparing patients for physician review, performing examinations of patients, performing operations on patients, and creating and sending out invoices;

categorizing the diverse tasks as variable tasks by determining an amount of variability in the discrete movements of the healthcare service providers body requested for performing the tasks and an amount of variability in conditions under which the tasks are performed;

applying an operator independent method of task time measure, including:

breaking down each of the diverse tasks into patterns of the movements of the healthcare services provider's body;

applying time values to the movement patterns of the healthcare services provider's body with the time values being true duration that have been predetermined for completing the movement patterns, so that the time values are independent of the specific

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healthcare service s being performed for the tasks; and

determining the total expected true duration of each of the diverse tasks from  
the applied time values for establishing costs for the diverse tasks undertaken by healthcare  
service providers as a function of the total expected true duration therefore.